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Letter dated 11 January 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 13 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Italy, Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to Afghanistan from 12 to 15 January 2018. They have also agreed on the terms of reference of the mission (see annex).

I have the honour to lead this mission in my capacities as Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and President of the Security Council for the month of January 2018.

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission will be as follows:

Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz (Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Mr. Bo Shen (China)
Ambassador Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoue (Côte d'Ivoire)
Ambassador Anatolio Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea)
Ambassador Tekeda Alemu (Ethiopia)
Ms. Anne Gueguen (France)
Ambassador Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan)
Ambassador Mansour Alotaibi (Kuwait)
Ambassador Karel van Oosterom (Netherlands)
Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Peru)
Ambassador Joanna Wronecka (Poland)
Mr. Vladimir Safronkov (Russian Federation)
Ambassador Olof Skoog (Sweden)
Ambassador Jonathan Guy Allen (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Ambassador Nikki R. Haley (United States of America)

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
President of the Security Council

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Annex

Terms of reference of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan

I. Context

1. The Security Council will carry out its mission to Afghanistan from 12 to 15 January 2018 within the context of and in line with the following:

(a) The relevant statements by the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan (S/PRST/2014/12 and S/PRST/2016/14);

(b) Security Council resolution 2344 (2017) on the situation in Afghanistan;

(c) The most recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2017/1056);

(d) The most recent report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (S/2017/696);

(e) The eighth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2255 (2015) concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan (see S/2017/409).

II. Objectives of the visit

2. The members of the mission will meet with representatives of the Government of Afghanistan, members of political parties and representatives of civil society and of UNAMA and the Resolute Support Mission. The main objectives of the mission are:

(a) To underscore that a conflict-free and violence-free Afghanistan is critical for regional and global peace and security;

(b) To reiterate the support of the Security Council for the Government and the people of Afghanistan and their efforts to rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of sustainable peace and constitutional democracy and assume their place in the community of nations;

(c) To express strong support for UNAMA and its Head, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, in fulfilling their mandates as defined in resolution 2344 (2017);

(d) To review efforts by the Afghan authorities in support of an Afghan-led development and stabilization process, with the assistance of the international community, to address the instability caused by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan and the region posed by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the narcotics trade, trafficking in persons and the diversion of chemical precursors;

(e) To underscore the importance of continued progress on electoral reform and towards the holding of credible and inclusive parliamentary elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019;

(f) To underline the importance of an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, in which women's participation is promoted at all levels, for the long-term prosperity and stability of Afghanistan;

(g) To review the progress made by the Afghan National Unity Government, with the assistance of the international community, including through capacity-building initiatives, in addressing interconnected challenges, including in the areas of security, economic and social development, governance, human rights and the rule of law, women's empowerment, regional cooperation and counter-narcotics;

(h) To encourage increased cooperation and coordination between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States, including in intergovernmental relations and people-to-people contacts;

(i) To encourage increased cooperation and coordination among UNAMA, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and relevant United Nations agencies and regional organizations to strengthen the region's capacity to overcome challenges to peace, stability and sustainable development, including with respect to the areas of counter-terrorism and combating cross-border organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, irregular migration and the use of the Internet for criminal purposes;

(j) To recognize that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, to reaffirm the primary responsibility of the Government and the authorities of Afghanistan in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace, and in this regard, to emphasize that inclusivity, including by ensuring the full and effective participation of women, is key to advancing the peacebuilding process and objectives in Afghanistan in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account;

(k) To recognize the importance of linking security and development objectives, in order to achieve durable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and in the wider region;

(l) To emphasize the importance of a regional approach to supporting security and prosperity in and around Afghanistan, and to underline the commitment of the Security Council to contributing constructively in this regard;

(m) To recommend a coordinated modus operandi for United Nations agencies and programmes to increase the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the United Nations on the ground, ensuring greater transparency in its administration, including in the implementation of anti-corruption measures, as well a more effective use of shrinking development and humanitarian aid, towards a harmonized United Nations approach in Afghanistan and Central Asian countries.